26-12 season-opening victory

Raiders trounce Knights

The Raider varsity football team exploded into the 1984 grid season Friday night with a 26-12 win against a tough Buckingham team.

Appomattox struck with blinding speed on the first play from scrimmage after the opening kickoff. Quarterback Peak Johnson hit receiver Mike Jackson for a 66-yard touchdown pass.

The conversion kick by Kevin Kendrick was good, giving Appomattox a 7-0 lead less than a minute into the game.

Appomattox scored again on its next possession, this after a six-play drive which culminated in Johnson's second touchdown pass of the night, to receiver Tim Austin.

A bobbled snap resulted in an unsuccessful conversion attempt, however, and Appomattox kicked to Buckingham again with a 13-0 lead.

The Raider defense, on Buckingham's second possession, shut the Knights' ground and passing games down completely, forcing Buckingham to punt after three downs.

Taking over on the 50-yard line after the punt, Appomattox mounted another scoring drive, their third in three possessions.

Ron Scruggs, Russell Walton and Andre McCoy moved the ball slowly but surely toward the Knight goal, then a pass from Johnson to Austin had the Raiders at first and goal.

Walton waltzed unscathed through the Knights' line and into the end zone on the next play, and with successful conversion kick by Kendrick, the Raiders held a commanding 20-0 lead.

But Buckingham was not to be shut out. Late in the second quarter, the Knights rushed punter Paul Johnson, who received a bad snap from center, and Buckingham blocked the errant kick attempt.

Taking over on the Appomattox 44-yard line, Buckingham moved quickly to the Raider 29 on a pass from quarterback Rusty Lang to reciver Troy Dunn.

Then Buckingham's Chris Booker took over, carrying the ball wide on three consecutive plays, then crashing into the Raider end zone from four yards out to score Buckingham's first touchdown.

Buckingham's attempt at the two-point conversion was unsuccessful, and on the ensuing kickoff, Appomattox began a drive that faltered near the Buckingham end zone as the first half ended.

The Raiders' final scoring drive came in the fourth quarter, following a Buckingham punt which Raider Tim Austin received at the Appomattox 49-yard line.

After a mixture of passing and running plays, the Raiders moved to the Buckingham 28-yard line on a run by Andre McCoy. Three plays later, Johnson passed to Austin, who caught the ball at the nine-yard line, setting up a first-and-goal situation for the Raiders. Two plays later Johnson again passed to Austin, who caught the ball inches from the Knights' goal line. Andre McCoy then ran up the middle for the final Appomattox score of the night. Kendricks' conversion was good for Appomattox's 26th point.

Buckingham's final score came in the last minute of the game, when Chris Booker carried the ball into the Raider from a yard out.

The Raiders had 99 yards rushing and 232 passing against Buckingham. Walton and McCoy were the leading Raider ground gainers, with 84 and 62 points, respectively, and Mike Jackson and Tim Austin led in the pass-receiving department, with 148 and 93 yards, respectively.

"We were very pleased with the way the boys performed," commented Raider coach Gary Cuccio after the game. "They seemed ready to play, and executed the plays very well."

Looking to this week's game against Randolph-Henry, a non-district opponent, Cuccio noted that "Randolph-Henry apparently had a very good team. They beat William Campbell 17-15 (Friday night), and William Campbell has been in the playoffs three of the last four seons."

Cuccio contin8ied, noting that "We have nine more opponents this year and all of them are going to be tough. We feel like Randolph-Henry beat a pretty good ball team last week, and they gave us a tough game last year. We have to continue to work hard and improve, this week and every week the rest of the season."

The Raiders will play Randolph-Henry at Charlotte Court House Friday night. Kickoff time is at 8 p.m.

To Buckingham

Jayvees drop first

The Appomattox Raider junior varsity football team dropped their season opener to Buckingham's jayvee squad last Thursday evening at Buckingham, 34-8.

The Raiders drew first blood, scoring on a 25-yard run by Gary Scruggs in the first quarter. Keith Fanney provided the key block which enabled Scruggs to break into the open and score.

The Raiders added two more points on the conversion, when Maurice Turner ran the ball into the end zone.

The Raiders' 8-0 lead was short-lived, however. Buckingham roared back with two scores of their own in the first quarter, and the jayvee Knights never relinquished the lead.

"We had a lot of defensive breakdowns in the game," commented Raider jayvee coach Howard Clabough. "There were a lot of typical first-game mistakes."

Clabough said that the team leaders on offense against Buckingham were Gary Scruggs (12 carries, 90 yards), Keith Fanney (three carries, 23 yards), Danny Williams (four of six passes completed, for 26 yards) and Leroy Woolridge (two of five passes completed, eight yards.)

The Raiders had a total of 264 yards offense against Buckingham.

Defensive leaders for the Raider junior varsity were Keith Fanney, Maurice Turner, Wilbur Steeples and Lee White.

The story of this game was our inconsistency, both on offense and on defense," commented Clabough.

The junior varsity Raiders will play their first home game tomorrow (Thursday) at 6 p.m. at Bragg Stadium.

Times-Virginian

SPORTS

Girls defeat Brookville

The Raiderette varsity girls' basketball team defeated Brookville 47-39 Thursday, after falling 37-28 to Gretna's squad last Tuesday night.

Gretna totally closed down the Raiderette offense in the first quarter of Tuesday's game. While Gretna scored nine points, the Raiderettes went scoreless.

But the Appomattox team stormed back in the second quarter, scoring 17 points and pulling to within two points of Gretna by the end of the first half.

After the half, however, Gretna began to stretch that lead, scoring 10 points in the third quarter, to the Raiderettes' four. In the final period, Gretna scored eight points, while the Raiderettes could manage only seven.

Sally Coleman was the leading scorer for Appomattox against Gretna, with nine points. Angie Banks scored seven points, Janice Foster and Darlene Ferguson scored four each, and Delores Smith scored three points for Appomattox.

Foster and Coleman led the Raidrettes in rebounding, with 12 and 10 rebounds, respectively. Banks had nine rebounds, Smith had seven, and Jennifer Worley had four for Appomattox against Gretna.

The Raiderettes's first win of the season came Thursday against Brookville, 47-39.

Appomattox scored seven points in the first quarter, to Brookville's three points, and in the second quarter, the Raiderettes scored 13 to the Lady Bees' eight, to carry a 20-11 lead into the locker room at the half.

In the third quarter, Brookville made a run at the Raiderettes, scoring 16 points to Appomattox's eight, and pulling to within one point of the Raiderettes' lead.

The two teams had a battle in the final quarter, but when the buzzer sounded ending the game, the Raiderettes had outscored Brookville 18-12 in the fourth period to take the 47-39 victory.

Sally Coleman and Darlene Ferguson scored in double figures for Appomattox with 17 and 15 points, respectively. Also scoring for Appomattox were Beverly Bennett, with eight points, Angie Banks, with five, Delores Smith with four points, and Janice Foster, with one point.

Sally Coleman had 15 rebounds and three steals for Appomattox. Angie Banks had seven rebounds, and Smith, Bennett and Ferguson each had four rebounds against Brookville.

The Raiderettes hit 36 percent of their shot from the floor, while Brookville hit 41 percent of their shots. Defense and rebounding were the elements which gave the Raiderettes the edge.

"Our shooting from the floor continues to hurt us," commented Raiderettes coach Mary Tolley. She noted that in the Gretna game, the Appomattox team hit only 16 percent of their shots from the floor.

"But," the coach adds, "the girls continue to hustle, and work hard." She noted that against Brookville, the Raiderettes had 10 steals and nine assists in securing the victory.

The Raiderettes were scheduled to play Nelson County Tuesday after the Times-Virginian deadline. Thursday evening, the team will play William Campbell at home, and next Tuesday, Appomattox will play Rustburg at Rustburg.

Jayvee games start at 6 p.m., and the varsity games start approximately 20 minutes after the junior varsity completes play.

Boosters seek more members

The Appomattox County High School Athletic Boosters Club is sponsoring a drive to increase membership and participation in the organization.

Officers for 1984-85 are: President, Ronnie Ranson; Vice-president, Buster Jackson; Secretary, Betty Jo Smith; Treasurer, Tommy Lawson; Concession Stand Chairpersons, Bobbie Jean Mullins, Cindy Ranson and Phyllis Smith; and Fund-raising Chairman, Jimmy Mayberry.

Membership is open to all interested citizens who wish to support male and female athletes and cheerleaders participating in the school athletic program. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 2, 1984.

Dues are $10 a year per family and can be paid to any of the officers listed above, or at the home football games.

Hudson seeks more players

Despite a large turnout at Saturday's registration for the upcoming Appomattox County soccer program, more players are needed, according to Bob Hudson, director of the County's recreation department.

Any boy or girl ages 7-13 may sign up to play. To register, call Hudson at 352-2645 any time, and leave your name, phone number and age. There is a $10 fee.

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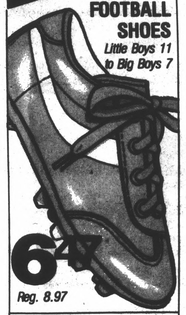

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Four named 'players of week'

Four members of the Raider varsity football team have been cited by the coaching staff for their outstanding efforts against Buckingham in Friday night's victory.

Offensive Players of the Week this week are Mike Jackson, who caught eight passes for 148 yards at his wide receiver post, and Jeff Williams, who did a good job blocking from his position at center, according to Raider coach Gary Cuccio.

Defensive Players of the Week include Carroll Patrick, who made five tackles and had one assist on the defensive line, and Russell Walton, who made seven tackles and had two assists from his linebacker position.

Jeff Williams

Mike Jackson

Russell Walton

Carroll Patrick

After Buckingham's game

Three jayvees cited for play against Buckingham

Three members of the Raider junior varsity football team have been chosen Players of the Week for the efforts in last Thursday's game.

Gary Scruggs was named offensive player of the week. He carried the football 12 times for 98 yards against Buckingham, and he caught one pass for 40 yards. Scruggs also scored the jayvee Raiders touchdown on a 25-yard run.

Maurice Turner and Keith Fanney were named defensive Players of the Week by the junior variety coaching staff.

Turner had seven tackles against Buckingham, and Fanney recorded six tackles in last week's game.

JAYVEE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (from left): Gary Scruggs, Maurice Turner, and Keith Fanney. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

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- Mail page to FOOTBALL, THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P.O. Box 2307, Appomattox, Va. 24522.
- All entries must be received by 12 NOON on FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK. • Only one entry per person per week. • Judges decision will be final.
- Employees of the TIMES-VIRGINIAN and their families are not eligible to enter the contest.

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